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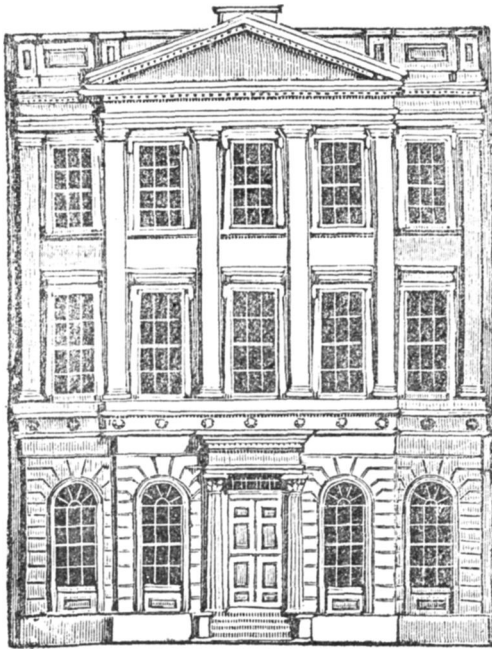
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THE BELFAST NATURAL HISTORY
SOCIETY AND MUSEUM.

There is not perhaps any public institution in Ireland, more interesting in its origin, or honorable to its members and patrons than the Belfast Natural History Society. It commenced among a few respectable young gentlemen of that town, nearly all of whom were engaged in commercial business, and who devoted those leisure hours to literary and scientific pursuits, which young men of their age and class too generally employ in folly or debauchery. They subscribed a small sum to pay for a room to meet in, and at their meetings curious objects of natural history were exhibited, and original essays were read and commented on. By degrees their numbers increased: young men who attended as visitors merely from feelings of curiosity, became captivated with the delights of knowledge, and zealously applied their minds to its acquisitions, and in a short time their numbers amounted to no less than sixty members. Of those meetings we can speak from personal observation, for about this period we happened to visit Belfast, and had the honor to be invited to one of them through their excellent president, Dr. James Drummond, and we confess, were never in our lives more surprised or gratified. Such a modest, yet manly gravity of deportment, such an orderly regularity, and such sound intelligence we could not have anticipated to have found pervading such a youthful assembly, and left an impression on our minds which will not speedily be forgotten. The meeting, indeed, was perhaps more than ordinarily interesting, for the duty of reading an original communication happened on that evening to fall in rotation on the most youthful member of society—a young gentleman then in his apprenticeship and eighteenth year—and a most excellent paper it was.

Their proceedings ultimately attracted, as they deserved, the admiration and applause of the older and wealthier citizens of this great commercial town and its vicinity; and a subscription was nobly entered on to procure the youthful society a public edifice for their meetings, and a depository for their valuable museum. The sum of twelve hundred pounds and upwards was speedily collected, since augmented to fifteen hundred; and on the 4th of May, 1830, the first stone of the edifice, represented in our annexed engraving, was laid by the Marquess of Donegal. On this interesting occasion, a bottle was deposited in the foundation stone, containing the current coins of the realm, copies of the various papers that have been published by the Belfast Natural History Society, an impression of the public seal of the corporation of the town, and the four verses following, from the twelfth chapter of Job, written in fifteen different languages, namely, the Hebrew, Greek, Irish, Welsh, Arabic, Latin, Italian, German, Danish, Spanish, Portuguese, French, Romain, German-Hebrew, and English.

“Ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee; and the fowls of the air, and they shall teach thee:

“Or, speak to the earth, and it shall teach thee; and the fishes of the sea shall declare unto thee.

“Who knoweth not in all these that the hand of the Lord hath wrought this?

“In whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind.”

With these there was a paper containing the following inscription:

MUSEI BELFASTIANI

Fundamenta Prima

Præsentibus

Societatis Historiæ Naturalis apud Belfastam

Sociis, aliisque multis scientiæ faventibus

qui ad hoc opus pecuniam contulerant:

Locavit

Vir Honoratissimus

GEORGIUS AUGUSTUS CHICHESTER

MARCHIO DE DONEGALL

IV. Non Maias

MDCCCXXX.

Rege Augustissimo Georgio IV.

Annum Regni XI.

Agente.

Thomas J. Duff, J. Jackson, Architectis; J. Johnston, Redemptore.

The intention of the verses from the Bible, in so many languages is, that after the lapse of many centuries they may possibly serve like the Rosetta stone of Egypt, to unlock the mysteries of languages and books then no longer spoken or understood.

The building, which is now completed, is situated on the north side of College square. In the lower story are two apartments intended for a lecture-room and library. Each of the upper stories consists of a single room, forty-seven feet in length, and twenty-seven feet broad, both of which will be exclusively devoted to the purposes of a public museum. A chemical laboratory will be attached to the lecture-room at no very distant day. The annual expenditure necessary to the support of the institution will be defrayed by the Natural History Society.

On the occasion of the first meeting of this interesting body in the present session, which was held on the 20th of October last, an address was delivered at the request of the society's council by the Rev. J. D. Hincks, M.R.I.A. In commencing it, he took occasion to notice the facility with which knowledge may now be acquired, contrasted with the difficulties which formerly retarded its acquisition; then dwelt on the humble commencement of this Natural History Society, when it consisted of only eight members; and, after touching on some of the different steps by which its progress had been marked, dwelt at considerable length on the vast range of objects which the science embraces, and the elevated pleasure which it affords.

THE BELFAST MUSEUM IS THE FIRST EVER ERECTED IN IRELAND BY VOLUNTARY SUBSCRIPTION, and it has our warmest wishes for its durability and success. We have marked the progress of the society to which it owes its origin with deep admiration, and we have sincere pleasure in placing it before the public as an example worthy of imitation, and deserving of national applause. P.

ANNALS OF DUBLIN.

TRANSLATED FROM THE AUTOGRAPH OF THE FOUR MASTERS IN THE LIBRARY OF THE ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY.

(Continued from page 190.)

1137. Dermot Mac Morogh, king of Leinster, and Connor O'Brien, lord of the Dalassians, together with the Danes of Dublin and Wexford, with two hundred ships, besieged Waterford.

1140. The Danes of Dublin were defeated by the Danes of Waterford, and the grandson of Tomar was killed.

1141. Connor O'Brien marched to Dublin, and the Danes submitted to him as their king.

1142. Ottir, one of the Danes of the Orkney Isles took Kells and Dublin.

1146. The inhabitants of East Meath slaughtered the Danes of Dublin; two hundred Danes were killed, together with Reginald, high steward of Dublin, and many other Danish nobles.

1149. The Danes of Dublin and the Lagenians, under the

command of Dermot M'Morogh, their king, plundered Du-leek. Dermot, the son of Magnus O'Loughlin, pursued them to revenge that plunder, but he lost his life, and was buried at Armagh.

1150. Torlogh O'Brien marched at the head of an army to Dublin, and the Danes submitted to him as their king. He gave them twelve hundred cows as a reward for their services.

1156. Dermot Mac Morogh, king of Leinster, the Danes of Dublin, and Donchad, son of Donall O'Melaghlin, plundered East Meath, carrying off both lay and ecclesiastical property; they drove off the cows of *Ardbraccan, Slane, Kiltalton, Donaghpatrick*, and most of the cattle of the whole country.

1157. Grene was bishop of Dublin.

1162. Grene, archbishop of the Danes and of Leinster, a learned sage, skilled in many languages, died; and Laurence O'Toole, comarba of St. Kevin, was appointed in his place by the comarba of St. Patrick.

Mortogh O'Loughlin, having assembled the North of Ireland and the men of Meath, marched, together with a battalion of the Connacians, to Dublin, to besiege the Danes. O'Loughlin returned back without battle or hostages, after having plundered Fingall; he left the Lagenians and Mathians in war with the Danes. A peace was afterwards concluded between the Danes and the Irish, the former paying 140 ounces of gold to O'Loughlin.

1166. Roderick O'Conor was, with great pomp and splendor, proclaimed king in Dublin.

1167. A great meeting was called this year, by Roderick O'Conor, at Athboy of Tlachtga: to it went the nobles of Leth Chuin, both clergy and laity, and the nobles of the Danes of Dublin; thither went the comarba of St. Patrick, Cadhla O'Duffay, archbishop of Connaught, Laurence O'Toole, archbishop of Leinster, Tiernan O'Rourke, lord of Brefny, Donchad O'Carroll, lord of Oriel, and the son of Dunslevy O'Heochadha, king of Ulidia, Dermot O'Melaghlin, king of Temor, and Reginald, lord of the Danes of Dublin. The whole amounted to 13,000 horsemen.

6,000 Connaughtmen.

4,000 with O'Rourke,

2,000 with O'Melaghlin,

4,000 with O'Carroll and O'Heochadha,

2,000 with Donchad, the son of Faolan, and

1,000 of the Danes of Dublin.

At this assembly many good laws were enacted.

1170. The Danes of Dublin were TREACHEROUSLY slaughtered in their own garrison by M'Morogh, and the English, and they carried away their cattle and their riches. Asgall the son of Reginald, king of the Danes of Dublin, fled from them.

1171. A battle was fought at Dublin, between Miles de Cogan and Asgall, son of Reginald, king of the Danes of Dublin; many fell on both sides, both of the English archers and of the Danes, among whom was Asgall himself, and Hoan, a Dane from the Orkney Isles.

Roderick O'Conor, Tiernan O'Rourke, and Murchad O'Carroll marched with an army to Dublin, to besiege the city, then in the possession of the Earl Strongbow and Miles de Cogan. They remained there for a fortnight, during which time many fierce engagements took place between them.

O'Conor, after that, marches against Leinster, accompanied by the men of Brefny and Oriel, and they commenced to carry away and burn the corn of the English. While Roderick was thus engaged, Strongbow and Miles de Cogan attacked the fastnesses of the north of Ireland.

So far the Annals of Dublin until the Invasion.

1171. Tiernan O'Rourke marched a second time to Dublin at the head of the men of Brefny and Oriel, and engaged with Miles de Cogan and his knights; but he was defeated, with the loss of his son Hugh, Tanist of Brefny. The grandson of Dermot O'Quin and many others fell also in this battle.

1172. Tiernan O'Rourke, lord of Brefny and Conmaicne, a very powerful chieftain, was very treacherously slain at Tlachtga, by Hugo de Lacy, assisted by Donall the son of Annadh O'Rourke, one of his own tribe, he was beheaded, and his head and body were carried to Dublin. The head was placed over the door of the castle, *a spectacle of pity and grief to the Irish, ('n a s'gath dearec-through do Ghaodhul-ribh.)* and the body was gibbeted with the feet upwards at the northern extremity of the city.

1174. Mulroney O'Kiertha, lord of Carbury, was treache-

rously slain by Mac Turnin of Dublin, assisted by the son of Hugh O'Ferrall, and by Kellach O'Finnellan, lord of *Deltinmore*. The Earl Strongbow marched his forces to plunder Munster, and Roderick O'Connor, king of Connaught, hastened to make resistance. When the English had intelligence of Roderick's approach to give them battle, they invited the foreigners of Dublin to their assistance, who with all possible speed marched to Thurles, where they were met by Donall O'Brien at the head of the Dalcassians, by a battalion from West Connaught, and by a numerous and select army of the Clan-murry under Roderick. A furious engagement ensued, in which the English were at last defeated. In this battle 1700 of the English were left dead on the plain, and only a few of them survived, who fled with the Earl to his house in Waterford.

1175. Magnus O'Melaghlin, lord of East Meath, was treacherously taken by the English, and hanged by them at Trim.

1176. The English Earl, Richard, died of a running sore (*Baine aillsi*) which broke out in his foot. This was attributed to the miracles of St. Brigit and Columkille, and of the other saints whose churches he had plundered, and he was heard to say that he saw St. Brigit killing him.

1177. Cardinal Vivianus came to Ireland, and convened a synod of the Irish Bishops and Abbots at Dublin, on the first Sunday of Lent, in which they enacted many ecclesiastical regulations.

1178. John De Courcey made an incursion into *Dalaradia** to plunder it, but he was opposed by Cumidhe O'Flinn, chief of *Hy-Tuirtre* and *Firlee*.† John and his English were defeated with great slaughter, but he himself escaped, and arrived in Dublin covered with wounds.

In the same year the English constable of Dublin and Meath, marched with his troops to Clonmacnoise, and plundered all the town except the churches and the house of the Bishop.

1180. Laurence O'Toole, Archbishop of Dublin and of Leinster, was martyred.

1185. John, the son of King Henry the Second of England, came to Ireland with sixty ships to conquer the kingdom. He conquered Dublin and Leinster, and erected a castle at *Tiprait Fachtna* and *Ardfinnan*, out of which he sent parties to plunder Munster, but his people were defeated with great slaughter by Donall O'Brien.

John soon after returned to England, to complain to his father of Hingo de Lacy, who was then the most powerful man in Ireland, under the King of England.

1193. Hugh O'Maolbrennan, chief of *Clann-Conchubhair*, was slain by the English of Dublin.

1209. The King of England landed at Dublin with 100 ships, and rested there for some time after his voyage; he then set out for *Tibraid ultain* in Meath, where Charles the red-handed O'Conor submitted to him. The King made Walter de Lacy fly into England, and also proceeded to Currickfergus, whence he expelled Hugo de Lacy into England.

A great war arose between the king of England and the Welsh, and ambassadors came to Ireland for the English bishop and nobility, who were then in this country.

1227. The English of Ireland assembled in Dublin, and invited Hugh, the son of Charles the red-handed O'Conor, king of Connaught, to a consultation: after his arrival they treacherously made him prisoner; but William Mareschal, his friend, arrived with his troops, and rescued him in despite of the English, out of the middle of the court-house, and conveyed him safely to Connaught.

J. O'DONOVAN.

* *Dalaradia* extended from Newry to *Shabh Mis* (Slemish) in the County of Antrim.

† *Firlee* is in the Tripartite Life of St. Patrick, called *Leacorum fides*; it was situated west, not east, of the river Bann.

EXTRAORDINARY WILL.

Mr. John Langley, an Englishman who settled in Ireland, where he died, left the following extraordinary will:

I, John Langley, born at Wincanton, in Somersetshire, and settled in Ireland in the year 1651, now in my right mind and wits, do make my will in my own hand-writing. I do leave all my house, goods, and farm of Black Kettle of 253 acres to my son, commonly called stubborn Jack, to him and his heirs for ever, provided he marries a Protestant, but not Alice Kendrick, who called me "Oliver's whelp." My new buckskin breeches and my silver tobacco stopper with J. L. on